

“Why Waiting upon God is Important”

Genesis 16

“Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hope for, we wait in the darkness for a flame we cannot light. We wait in fear for a happy ending that we cannot write. We wait for a ‘not yet’ that feels like a ‘not ever.’” Dr. Lewis Smedes

“Second only to suffering, waiting may be the greatest teacher and trainer in godliness, maturity, and genuine spirituality most of us ever encounter.” Pastor Richard Hendrix

Isaiah 30:18 “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!”

Principle - At least as important as the things we wait for is the work God wants to do in us.

Hebrew language the word “wait” means – trust.

Three times when we find ourselves waiting:

1. When circumstances are uncontrollable
2. When people are unchangeable
3. When problems are unexplainable

Why wait upon God?

1. Because God is in control
2. Because God rewards patience

Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

3. Because God is working things out.
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Philippians 2:13 “God is at work within you.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things, God is working.”

What do I do as I wait upon God?

1. I wait expectantly

Psalms 130:5 “I wait expectantly, trusting God to help, for He has promised.”

Isaiah 49:23 “The Lord says....No one who waits for my help will be disappointed.”

2. I wait quietly

James 5:9 “Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged.”

James 5:12 “Above all, my brothers, don’t swear.”

Lamentations 3:26 “It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Habakkuk 2:3 “These things won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!”

3. I wait confidently.

Micah 7:7 "I will wait confidently for God."

Psalms 37:7 "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him to act."

Isaiah 40:29-31 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

"I asked for strength that I might achieve;
I was made weak that I might obey.
I asked for health that I might do greater things;
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy;
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I have received nothing I asked for, all that I hoped for;
My prayer is answered."